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NOTES

USSR-US: Soviet First Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Kuzmin informed the US Embassy yesterday without prior notice that he will depart for Washington tomorrow to discuss trade questions. He characterized his trip as a continuation of summit talks on a "broad range of trade matters." He requested that there be no publicity about his visit. Kuzmin may put forward a new Soviet proposal for settling the lend-lease debt. Failure to resolve this issue has been a major stumbling block to an expansion of economic relations, including an extension of most-favored-nation treatment for Soviet exports and the availability of Export-Import Bank credit guarantees. Kuzmin may hope this log-jam can be broken before the first session in mid-July of the Soviet-US committee set up at the May summit to negotiate trade and economic matters.

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PANAMA: General Torrijos was personally informed this week that his brother Moises has been indicted by a grand jury in New York on narcotics charges. The brother, now Ambassador to Spain, had been implicated by a Panamanian smuggler arrested in New York last July with over 150 pounds of heroin. Torrijos suggested that Moises may have been duped and offered to recall him to Panama for questioning. Torrijos, however, was unresponsive to suggestions that Moises be removed from the diplomatic service and expressed doubts that his brother is now involved in anything illegal. Torrijos is trying to keep US-Panamanian relations on an even keel and does not want any difficulties before the August legislative elections. His restrained reaction may give way to a studied nationalistic rage if the sealed indictment becomes public knowledge.

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